

DME and Diabetic Supply Code Changes Alert

HCPCS code changes for many DME items and all diabetic supplies become effective for dates of service on or after November 1, 2004, including a significant number of changes in codes for custom wheelchairs. The new codes **must** be used to authorize and claim for dates of service (DOS) on or after November 1. Authorizations issued now for anticipated DOS on or after November 1 must use the new codes. However, at this time these codes can be accessed only in the legacy system until they are activated in the web-based system, which is scheduled to occur on November 1. This may necessitate re-issuing some DME authorizations after November 1 with correct codes. New codes for diabetic supplies—NDC codes also become effective on November 1, but for those supplies only, the old codes will remain valid until a currently held authorization expires. There is no similar grace period for DME.

A CCS Numbered Letter will be released prior to November 1 which provides a summary of important code information and assistance in interpreting the information in the Medi-Cal Manual and bulletins. However, this N.L. in no way attempts to provide a complete list of new codes. It is essential that both providers and County CCS staff read Medi-Cal Allied Health Bulletins and the Provider Manual updates which are available now for review at the Medi-Cal website www.medi-cal.ca.gov.